

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William Kratz on 7/28/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

The abstract is to be amended from two paragraphs to one single paragraph.

Before the first sentence in the specification reference to the claimed priority is added as set forth below:

"This Application is based on and hereby claims priority to PCT Application No. PCT/JP04/17269 filed on 19 November 2004 and Japanese Application No. 2004-139491 filed on 10 May 2004 and Japanese Application No. 2003-405914 filed on 04 December 2003, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art fails to teach or disclose a slit cutting tool with a grooving blade and a notching blade

with a semi-cylindrical blade edge detachably and adjustably mounted to the cutting tool body in the radial direction via an oblong hole.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LAURA M. LEE whose telephone number is (571)272-8339. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on (571) 272-4502. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Laura M Lee/
Examiner, Art Unit 3724
7/15/2009
/Boyer D. Ashley/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3724